Primary Care Home Initiative:
St. Louis Health Information Exchange

August 2006

Improving Health in St. Louis – Current Initiatives

Improving the Health Care Safety Net

- **Primary Care Home Initiative/NMPI project**
- **Sharing of Clinical Best Practices**
- **Community Health Coaches Program**
- **Integration of Safety Net Operations**
- **Access to Care Expansion**
- **Stable Long-term Financing**
- **Eastern Region Public Mental Health Initiative**

Strengthening Wellness and Health Literacy

- **Youth Health and Wellness**
- **Regional Health Department Collaboration**
- **Diabetes Education Network**
- **Center for Health Literacy**
- **Wellness at the Workplace**
- **Evidence into Practice**

RESULTS

- **Lower Health Care Costs**
- **Improved Quality of Life**
- **Greater Regional Competitiveness**

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What is the IHN?

- Partnership of safety net providers serving over 250,000 uninsured and underinsured residents in St. Louis City and County

- Goal – to improve the *quality*, *accessibility* and *affordability* of safety net health care in St. Louis City and County through increased integration and coordination of services

- IHN providers:
  – Four Federally Qualified Health Centers
  – St. Louis ConnectCare
  – St. Louis University School of Medicine
  – Washington University School of Medicine
  – St. Louis County Department of Health
  – City of St. Louis Department of Health

What are the IHN's current focus areas?

- Improving access to a **primary care home** for all individuals
  - Improving continuity of care
  - Reducing emergency department visits for primary care

- Improving access to **specialty care**

- Improving **health information exchange**

- Strengthening **care quality** and **health literacy**
  - Physician/clinician training and collaboration to improve care
  - Health Education and Literacy Program (HELP)

Access to Primary Care Homes

What we know:

- Regular preventive care and an established doctor-patient relationship lead to better health outcomes

- Currently, 37% of visits to area emergency departments are for primary care or other non-emergencies
  - Difficult to ensure preventive and follow-up care
  - Compromised ability to treat emergencies
  - Expensive care delivery

- Patients encounter barriers to primary/specialty care

What is the Primary Care Home Initiative?

Goals:

- Improve access to a primary care home
- Reduce use of emergency departments for non-emergencies
- Enhance provider communications and enable information sharing across providers

Project Components:

- Redesigning referrals/triage
- Enhancing primary care provider capacity
- Improving health information exchange – Network Master Patient Index

Progress to Date:

- Communitywide provider participation
- Assessment and implementation plan complete

NMPI Project – Collaborating for the Future

- 18 organizations launched Network MPI Planning Project in 2005
  - All 4 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
  - St. Louis City and County Departments of Health
  - St. Louis U. and Washington U. Medical Schools
  - St. Louis ConnectCare
  - All hospital emergency departments in areas of high need:

St. Mary's Hospital	St. Louis Children's Hospital
DePaul Health Center	St. Louis University Hospital
Cardinal Glennon Children's Hosp.	Forest Park Hospital
Barnes-Jewish Hospital	St. Alexius Hospital
Christian Northeast Hospital	

NMPI Vision

- The vision for the IHN NMPI is a technology solution across St. Louis safety net providers designed to support the needs of St. Louis's underserved population and meet a specific set of requirements
  - Industry standard EMPI functionality
  - Primary care home management
  - Housed in the IHN
  - Additional processes
  - Scaleable for the future
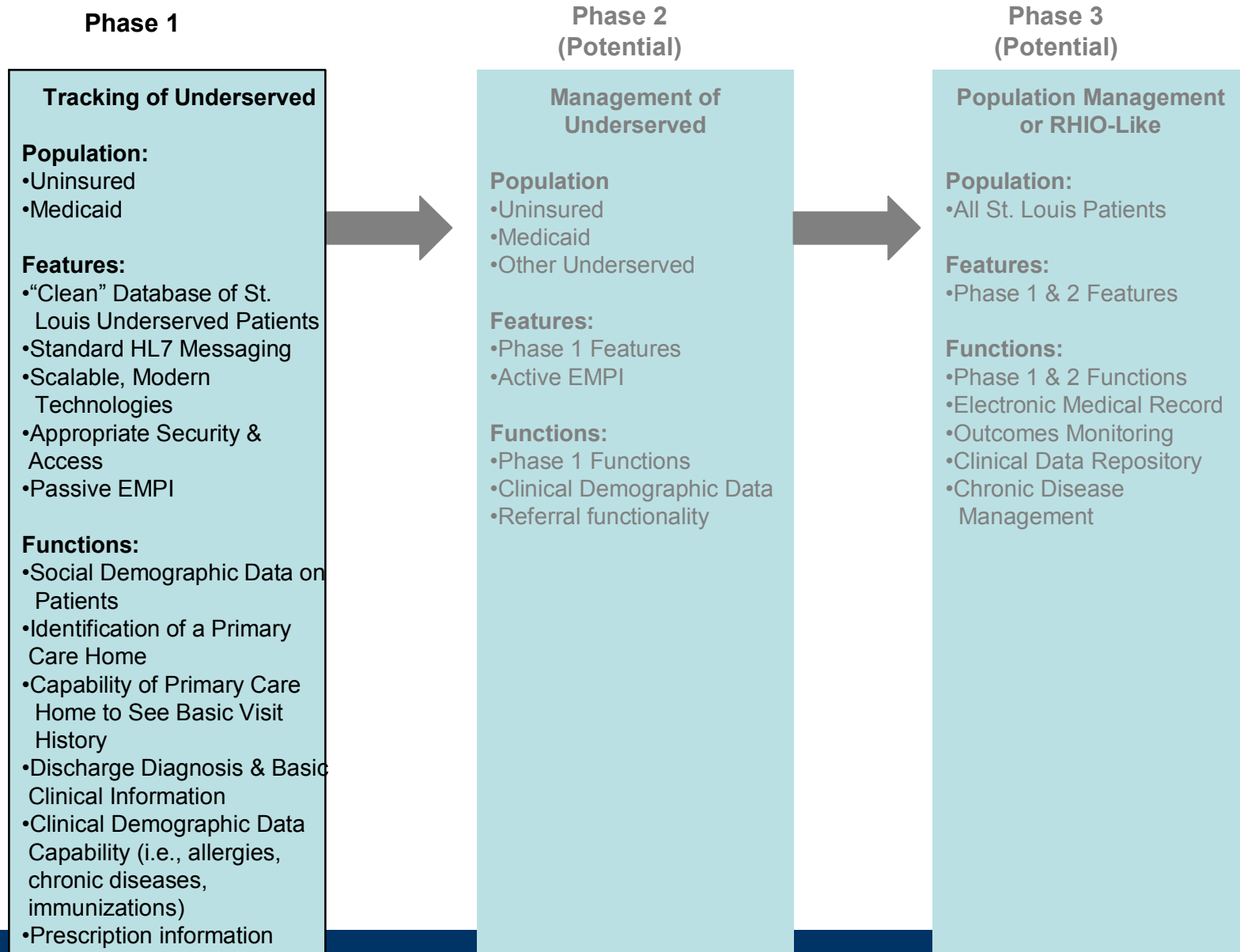
Planning Project Scope & Goals

Scope

- Performance of a current state assessment on 18 organizational entities
- Creation of a set of alternative approaches (and a recommendation) for the development of a Network MPI
- Incorporation of design considerations in registration, medical records, and clinical areas
- Development of an implementation plan for the selected solution

Goals

- Develop a single definition and vision for the concept of a Network MPI
- Identify the specific data elements included in the Network MPI
- Evaluate the various IHN member and affiliate entities to identify the challenges and opportunities related to maintaining a Network MPI solution
- From 3-4 alternative solution options for achieving the vision of the Network MPI solution, identify a single one
- Develop a plan with time, cost and other estimates associated with implementing the selected alternative Network MPI solution

NMPI Phased View

Phase 1

**Phase 2
(Potential)**

**Phase 3
(Potential)**

Tracking of Underserved

Population:
- Uninsured
- Medicaid

Features:
- "Clean" Database of St. Louis Underserved Patients
- Standard HL7 Messaging
- Scalable, Modern Technologies
- Appropriate Security & Access
- Passive EMPI

Functions:
- Social Demographic Data on Patients
- Identification of a Primary Care Home
- Capability of Primary Care Home to See Basic Visit History
- Discharge Diagnosis & Basic Clinical Information
- Clinical Demographic Data Capability (i.e., allergies, chronic diseases, immunizations)
- Prescription information

Management of Underserved

Population
- Uninsured
- Medicaid
- Other Underserved

Features:
- Phase 1 Features
- Active EMPI

Functions:
- Phase 1 Functions
- Clinical Demographic Data
- Referral functionality

Population Management or RHIO-Like

Population:
- All St. Louis Patients

Features:
- Phase 1 & 2 Features

Functions:
- Phase 1 & 2 Functions
- Electronic Medical Record
- Outcomes Monitoring
- Clinical Data Repository
- Chronic Disease Management

NMPI and Primary Care Home Initiative

- To be more than a good idea, the Primary Care Home Initiative's success depends on information

- In addition to basic demographic information about the uninsured and underinsured, the NMPI will serve to provide a primary care home assignment as well as care utilization data and basic clinical information

- With appropriate security access controls, this community-wide solution will equip St. Louis providers with the tools to educate patients about their care options, and help to reduce the use of the emergency department for non-emergent care